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Amendments to the Claims

1-7. (canceled)

8. (previously amended) An apparatus, comprising:
an enclosure having an opening to a cavity;
a device to emit light at the bottom of the cavity; and
a cover over the light-emitting device to diffuse the light;
wherein an angle theta between a top surface of the cover and a projection line drawn from an edge of the opening to an opposite edge of the light-emitting device enables light emitted through the opening to be visible to a speaker only when the speaker's mouth is within a sensitivity region of a microphone.

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) The apparatus recited in claim 8, wherein the depth of the cavity and the size and shape of the opening are designed so that the light emitted from the opening is only visible when the speaker's mouth is within the sensitivity region.

11. (original) The apparatus recited in claim 8, wherein the enclosure is capable of attaching to the microphone.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim ~~12~~ 8, wherein the microphone is a microphone array.

14. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein the microphone array uses time delay estimation to establish the sensitivity region.

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15. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 12 8, further comprising a speech recognition application using input from the microphone.
16. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 12 8, further comprising a speaker verification application using input from the microphone.
17. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 12 8, further comprising a conferencing application using input from the microphone.
18. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 12 8, further comprising a telephony application using input from the microphone.
19. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 12 8, further comprising a tablet coupled to the microphone.
20. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 12 8, further comprising a computing device coupled to the microphone.
21. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 12 8, further comprising an appliance coupled to the microphone, the appliance receiving control input from the microphone.
22. (currently amended) The system apparatus as recited in claim 12 8, further comprising, an automobile application using input from the microphone.
23. (original) A method, comprising:
 - providing an enclosure having a bottom, an opening, and a depth;
 - attaching a light-emitting device to the bottom of the enclosure, wherein the light-emitting device has a top surface;

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calculating an angle theta (θ) so that the light-emitting device is only visible to a talker when the talker's mouth is within a sensitivity region of a microphone; and

manufacturing the opening and depth of the enclosure so that the angle theta (θ) is an angle between the top surface of the light-emitting device and a projection line drawn from an edge of the opening to an opposite edge of the light-emitting device.

24. (original) The method as recited in claim 23,

wherein calculating the angle theta (θ) is performed by calculating $\theta = \arctan(\beta/\alpha)$;

wherein beta (β) is a length of an orthogonal projection between an edge of the opening and the bottom of the enclosure; and

wherein alpha (α) is a distance between the opposite edge of the light-emitting device and the orthogonal projection.

25. (original) The method as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

providing a cover over the light-emitting device to diffuse the light;

wherein theta (θ) is the angle between the top surface of the light-emitting device and the projection line drawn from the edge of the opening to the opposite edge of the cover over the light-emitting device.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in claim 4, wherein the walls of the enclosure are coated to absorb light.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in claim 8, wherein the sides of the cavity are sloped.

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Remarks

Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the enclosed amendment and remarks is requested. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 8-11, 23-25 and 27 are allowable. Claims 1-7, 9, and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13-22 and 26 have been amended to depend on allowed base Claim 8. Upon entry of the amendments above, Claims 8, 10-11 and 13-27 now remain in the application.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 8, 10-11 and 13-27 are all in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 633-6845. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please charge any shortage of fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0221 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

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